



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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March 27, 2008

Rear Admiral William S. Stokes
Executive Director, ICCVAM, NIEHS
P.O. Box 12233 Mail Code EC-17
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Rear Admiral Stokes,

NLM has received the test method recommendations for four *in vitro* test methods proposed for identifying substances that may cause ocular corrosion or severe ocular irritation. Pursuant to Section 3(e)(4) of the OCCVAM Authorization Act of 2000, we have reviewed the recommendations for the: (1) Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability (BCOP) assay, (2) the Isolated Chicken Eye (ICE) assay, (3) the Isolated Rabbit Eye (IRE) assay, and (4) the Hen's Egg Test -Chorioallantoic Membrane (HET-CAM) assay. As provided in the report, *The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) Test Method Evaluation Report: In Vitro Test Methods for Identifying Ocular Corrosives and Severe Irritants*.

As you know, we do not have any regulatory or testing authority that would need to be in compliance with these recommendations. We do, however, heartily endorse their adoption and the continued work to promote and encourage the development and use of alternative test methods that are found to be effective and applicable.

We have included the newly recommended methods in our NLM database on animal testing alternatives <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/altbib.html>. This database provides bibliographic references on many issues related to animal testing, and uses pre-formulated strategies to help users find literature citations in PubMed. It also provides links to additional useful sources of information related to alternatives to animal testing.

We are happy to participate in the important work of the ICCVAM, and look forward to continuing to serve on this committee as it works to facilitate the evaluation and adoption of test methods that provide improved animal welfare as while protecting human health and the environment.

Yours truly,

Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D.
Director